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Reflection 3:

After viewing the ARP presentations, I realized that each presenter was passionate about their topic, and had a reason behind why they were conducting their research study. It seemed that each of these issues directly affected each one of the presenters and motivated them to pick their specific research topic. By bettering the lives of students, teachers would be able to make progress in our schools which will benefit the students and their parents when they witness their child’s achievements. For instance, my Action Research Project makes a direct connection between the students and their families. Me and my colleague’s study focuses on implementing culturally relevant pedagogy into the curriculum. Based on our research studies we have concluded that students learn better in an environment where they can connect their home life to their school work. Thus, what students have absorbed outside of their school experience, helps them build and acquire new knowledge in the classroom.

Marie O’Regan, researched about class population and its effect on the success rates of the students, she concluded that smaller classrooms promote better learning due to the personal attention being granted to each student. Her study intrigued me because I was very interested in why overcrowded classrooms worked well in some countries, yet not so much in the United States. Eileen Blair focused her research topic on the implementation of Blackboards in classrooms for ESL students, she mentioned that technology helps students learn a new language and motivates students. She discussed the excruciating embarrassment of English Language Learners caused by publicly speaking among their American peers, which I underwent when I first came to this country and was an English Language Learner myself. Eileen discussed that using technology bridges that gap and prevents performance anxiety amongst ELL students.

By knowing the issues in our schools we can ensure that our future educators and pedagogues can create a better learning environment for their students, through validated factual data that is supported by other educators, philosophers, and practitioners. Me and my colleague Marva Rudder’s research project ties into the Mission Statement of the School of Education because we are focusing on Cultural Diversity. This will directly influence our ability to be more flexible and efficient teachers in the multicultural city of New York. We are conducting this research study in hopes that it will help us create a better understanding of how to successfully implement multicultural education into the curriculum and help students build connections between the school environment and their home to essentially become better learners.